

Statement by

**the Republic of Slovenia**

at the

**46th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council**

**Item 4: Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Iran**

Geneva, 9 March 2021

Excellencies,

Slovenia aligns itself with the EU statement. We would like to thank Special Rapporteur Rehman for his detailed report on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran with a special focus on the situation of women and girls. In addition, we also would like to take note of the recent letter by the seven UN Special Rapporteurs sent to the Iranian authorities and would welcome further consideration on the international investigation in this regard.

We recognize the challenges the Islamic Republic of Iran is facing in addressing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, as highlighted in the report, gender-based discrimination persists in family, criminal and employment laws, practice and societal attitudes. In this regard, we strongly encourage Iran to amend legislation, end gender discrimination and improve the situation of women and girls.

Slovenia strongly condemns Iran’s continued use of the death penalty, particularly against juvenile offenders and recent implementation of death penalty against protesters. We share Special Rapporteur's deep concern about the reports of secret executions in connection with protests. While we welcome the release of some human rights defenders, lawyers, and labour rights activists, Iran's targeting of individuals from these groups remains a serious concern. We call on Iran to immediately release all of those who are arbitrarily detained, including dual and foreign nationals, as well as political prisoners and prisoners of conscience.

Thank you.